

Easy Steps to Advocate for 5 a Day and Physical Activity in Your Community

- 1. Bring together a group of 5 to 10 people who are interested in advocating for 5 a Day and physical activity in your community. It would be ideal if you could continue to work with your group from class. If this is not possible, bring together friends, family members, neighbors or co-workers.
- 2. Determine what you want to advocate for in your community. Choose one thing in your community that could increase fruit and vegetable consumption and one thing that could increase physical activity.

Here are a few examples of things you can advocate for in your community to increase fruit and vegetable consumption:

- Request that fast food restaurants in your community serve more fruits and vegetables at reasonable prices.
- Urge your local grocery store to sell quality fruits and vegetables at affordable prices.
- Request the establishment of a farmers' market in your community.
- Request that a community garden be placed in your neighborhood so that you and your neighbors can grow your own fruits and vegetables.

Here are a few examples of things you can advocate for in your community to increase physical activity:

- Work with local law enforcement to have a safe walking zone in your community.
- Request that the Department of Transportation construct bicycle lanes in your community so that you and your neighbors will be able to ride your bicycles safely.

- Work with your local schools to provide after-hours and weekend access to recreation facilities, gyms, and/or soccer fields.
- Work with the Department of Parks and Recreation to upgrade walking paths in your community park.
- 3. Work with your group to create a clear and **concise problem statement** for your 5 a Day and physical activity issues.

Here are examples of 5 a Day problem statements:

- The fast food restaurants in our neighborhood do not serve fruits and vegetables at reasonable prices.
- The grocery store(s) in our neighborhood do not sell quality fruits and vegetables at affordable prices.
- There is not a farmers' market in our neighborhood.
- There is not a community garden in our neighborhood.

Here are examples of physical activity problem statements:

- Our neighborhood does not have safe areas where we can walk with our family members and friends.
- Our neighborhood does not have bicycle lanes, which makes it unsafe for us to ride our bicycles.
- Our local schools do not provide after-hours and weekend access to recreation facilities, gyms and/or soccer fields.
- The walking path in our neighborhood park is unsafe and difficult to walk on, because it is littered with trash.



Once your group has developed the problem statement, make sure all group members agree with the statement.

- 4. Work with your group to list the steps that will be taken to solve the 5 a Day and physical activity problems in your community. Once the group has completed the steps, make sure all group members agree with the solutions.
- 5. Bring other people into your group who can help solve the 5 a Day and physical activity problems and help advocate for your solutions. You may want to enlist the help of community leaders, local business owners, and local government agencies.
- 6. Let appropriate decision-makers know about the 5 a Day and physical activity problems that your group would like to solve. Make sure you clearly communicate your problem statements and steps needed to solve the problems.

Using the examples shown in steps 2 and 3, here are examples of decision-makers for the 5 a Day issues:

- Fast food restaurant owners, California Restaurant Association, and city and/or county officials.
- Grocery store owners, local distributors and wholesalers of fruits and vegetables, local farmers, and city and/or county officials.
- City and/or county officials, local farmers and farmer organizations, and representatives of the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

 Representatives of the Department of Parks and Recreation and the University of California Cooperative Extension.

Using the examples shown in steps 2 and 3, here are examples of decision-makers for the physical activity issues:

- Local law enforcement and city and/or county officials.
- Representatives of the Department of Transportation.
- School Principals and the District Superintendent.
- Representatives of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Continue to discuss and advocate for your 5 a Day and physical activity solutions until a reasonable outcome is achieved.

To get more help in advocating for 5 a Day and physical activity in your community, visit the Center for Collaborative Planning Web site at http://www.connectccp.org. To get help in establishing a farmers' market in your community, visit http://www.ams.usda.gov and click on farmers markets.





5 a Day Community Assessment

Access to Fruits and Vegetables

This assessment will help you determine what is available in your community and what is needed to access quality fruits and vegetables. Take a walk through your community and fill out the 5 a Day Community Assessment. After you have completed the assessment, you can use the information to educate your friends, family members, neighbors, and local government officials about what is needed in your community to make it easier to eat more fruits and vegetables.

Instructions:

For each question, mark "yes" if the 5 a Day resource is available in your community; "yes, but there are some problems" if the 5 a Day resource is available in your community, but it needs some improvements; and "no" if it does not exist in your community. If your community has the 5 a Day resource, use the following rating scale to evaluate its overall condition. If your community does not have the 5 a Day resource, skip to the next question and leave the rating scale blank.

Rating Scale:

the	re a grocery store in your community?	2. Is there a farmers' market in you	r community?				
) Yes	o No	O Yes O No					
Yes	, but there are some problems:	O Yes, but there are some problems	:				
(M	ark all that apply)	(Mark all that apply)					
O	The fruits and vegetables are too expensive	 The fruits and vegetables are 	too expensive				
0	The fruits and vegetables are poor quality	 The fruits and vegetables are 	poor quality				
0	The store does not have a good selection of fruits and vegetables	 The market does not have a good selection of fruits and vegetables 					
0	The store mostly sells fruits and vegetables that I am unfamiliar with	 The market mostly sells fruits and vegetables that I am unfamiliar with 					
0	The store does not accept food stamps or WIC coupons	 The market does not accept food stamps or WIC coupons 					
О	The store is not within walking distance of my home	 The market is not within walking distance of my home 	ng				
0	I need my own car to get to the store and I don't own one	 I need my own car to get to the and I don't own one 	he market				
0	I cannot take public transportation to the store	 I cannot take public transporte 	ation to the mark				
О	Other problems (please describe)	Other problems (please descr	ibe)				



	ere a flea market or swap meet in your nunity that sells fruits and vegetables?	5.	Is there a community garden where you can grow your own fruits and vegetables?					
(M)))	s, but there are some problems: ark all that apply) The fruits and vegetables are too expensive The fruits and vegetables are poor quality The market/swap meet does not have a good selection of fruits and vegetables The market/swap meet mostly sells fruits and vegetables that I am unfamiliar with The market/swap meet does not accept food stamps or WIC coupons The market/swap meet is not within walking distance of my home I need my own car to get to the market/ swap meet and I don't own one I cannot take public transportation to the	 Yes						
0	market/swap meet Other problems (please describe)		Rating: (circle one)					
			1 2 3 4 5 6					
that s Yes Yes (M O O O	s, but there are some problems: ark all that apply) The fruits and vegetables are too expensive The fruits and vegetables are poor quality The store does not have a good selection of fruits and vegetables The store mostly sells fruits and vegetables that I am unfamiliar with The store does not accept food stamps or WIC coupons		 Yes, but there are some problems: (Mark all that apply) The food bank does not have flexible hours The food bank does not offer an adequate amount of fruits and vegetables The food bank offers poor quality fruits and vegetables The food bank is not in a safe area The food bank is not within walking distance of my home I need my own car to get to the food bank and I don't own one I cannot take public transportation to the food bank Other problems (please describe) 					
	The store sells only fruit and vegetable juice The store is not within walking distance							
0	of my home I need my own car to get to the store		Rating: (circle one)					
0	and I don't own one I cannot take public transportation to the store Other problems (please describe)		1 2 3 4 5 6					



7.	Are there restaurants in your community that
	nave fruit and vegetable options on their menus?

O Yes	\bigcirc Nc	
100	() ()	1

- O Yes, but there are some problems: (Mark all that apply)
 - O The fruit and vegetable choices are limited
 - O The restaurants charge more for fruit and vegetable juice
 - O The restaurants charge more when fruits and vegetables are substituted for other side dishes
 - O The fruits and vegetables are poor quality
 - O The restaurants only serve canned fruits and vegetables
 - O The fruit and vegetable menu options are more expensive
 - O The only options for eating fruits and vegetables are the salad bars
 - O The restaurants are not within walking distance of my home
 - O I need my own car to get to the restaurants and I don't own one
 - O I cannot take public transportation to the restaurants
 - O Other problems (please describe)

Rating: (circle one)

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Physical Activity Community Assessment

Access to Physical Activity Opportunities

This assessment will help you determine what is available in your community and what is needed to access quality physical activity opportunities. Take a walk through your community and fill out the Physical Activity Community Assessment. After you have completed the assessment, you can use the information to educate your friends, family members, neighbors, and local government officials about what is needed in your community to make it easier to do more physical activity.

Instructions:

For each question, mark "yes" if the physical activity resource is available in your community; "yes, but there are some problems" if the physical activity resource is available in your community, but it needs some improvements; and "no" if it does not exist in your community. If your community has the physical activity resource, use the following rating scale to evaluate its overall condition. If your community does not have the physical activity resource, skip to the next question and leave the rating scale blank.

Rating Scale:

1 =	Awful	2 = Mai	ny proble	ems 3	= Some	problems	4 = Good	5 = Ve	ry good	6 =	Excellent				
1.	Are t	here walking paths in your community?					Is there a public swimming pool in your community?								
	O Yes	O No					your co	,,,,,,,	•						
	O Yes	, but there o	are some	problems	:		○ Yes ○ No								
		ark all that o					O Yes, but there are some problems:								
	O	The paths of	are locate	d in unsc	ıfe areas		(Mar	k all that o	apply)						
	0	The paths r	need to be	e repaire	d		T C	he pool is	not open	on the v	veekends				
		The paths o						he pool is							
		The paths o						he pool is			-				
	0	The paths of	are overcr	rowded w	vith peopl	е		he pool is							
	0	The paths of	are not wi	ithin walk	ing distar	nce	O The admission fee is too expensive								
		of my home	е				 I do not know how to swim and the pool facility does not offer classes The pool does not have a place to swim laps The pool is overcrowded with people The pool is located in an unsafe area 								
	0	I need my	own car t	o get to t	he paths	and									
		I don't own													
	0	I cannot tal	ke public	transport	ation to th	ne paths									
	0	Other prob	lems (ple	ase descr	ibe)										
							OT	he pool is	not withi	n walking	g distance				
							0	f my home	e						
							1 C	need my	own car to	o get to t	he pool a	nd			
	Ra	ting: (circle	one)				1	don't own	one						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	0.1	cannot tal	ke public	transport	ation to th	e pool			
	•	_		·			0 0	Other prob	lems (pled	ase descr	ibe)				
							_								
							_								
							Ratin	g: (circle	one)						
							1	2	3	4	5	6			

3.	Is there a recreation center open to the public in	5. Are there any bicycle trails in your community?
	your community? O Yes O No O Yes, but there are some problems: (Mark all that apply) O The center is not open on the weekends O The center is not open in the evenings O The center is only open in the summer O The center does not have any activities I like O The center has hours that do not fit into my schedule O The center is located in an unsafe area O The center is run down and needs to be repaired O The center is overcrowded with people O The center is not within walking distance	 Yes, but there are some problems: (Mark all that apply) The trails are located in unsafe areas The trails need to be repaired The trails are littered with trash The trails are not well lit The trails are overcrowded with people The trails are not near my home I need my own car to get to the trails and I don't own one I cannot take public transportation to the trails Other problems (please describe)
	of my home	Patings (circle and)
	 I need my own car to get to the center and I don't own one I cannot take public transportation to the center Other problems (please describe) 	Rating: (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6 6. Are there parks, sports fields, and/or playgrounds in your community?
4.	Rating: (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6 Are there bicycle lanes on the streets in your community? O Yes O No O Yes, but there are some problems: (Mark all that apply) O The bicycle lanes on the street need to be repainted O Only some streets have bicycle lanes O There are no bicycle lanes on the street where I live O The bicycle lanes are not wide enough O Cars in my community drive too close to the bicycle lanes O Other problems (please describe)	 Yes
	Rating: (circle one)	Rating: (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6



Do the schools in your community offer after-hours access to their sports fields and/or gyms?	8. Does your community offer any physical activity programs?							
did/or gyins.	O Yes O No							
O Yes O No	O Yes, but there are some problems:							
O Yes, but there are some problems:	(Mark all that apply)							
(Mark all that apply)	 The programs are only available in the summer 							
O They are not open on the weekends	 The programs are only available during 							
O They are not open in the evenings	the week							
 They have hours that do not fit into my schedule 	 The programs are only offered when I am working 							
O They are only open in the summer	 The programs are only for children 							
O The sports fields/gyms are in poor condition	 The programs are too expensive 							
O Only students can use the sports fields/gyms	 The programs that are offered do not 							
 The sports fields/gyms are overcrowded 	interest me							
O The schools are located in unsafe areas	 The programs are not within walking 							
 The schools that are open are not within 	distance of my home							
walking distance of my home	 I need my own car to get to the programs 							
 I need my own car to get to the schools 	and I don't own one							
and I don't own one	 I cannot take public transportation to 							
 I cannot take public transportation 	the programs							
to the schools	 Other problems (please describe) 							
Other problems (please describe)								
	Rating: (circle one)							
Rating: (circle one)	1 2 3 4 5 6							



Walkability Checklist

How walkable is your community?

Take a walk with a family member or friend and decide for yourselves.

Everyone benefits from walking. But walking needs to be safe and easy. Take a walk with a family member or friend, and use this checklist to decide if your neighborhood is a friendly place to walk. Take heart if you find problems, there are ways you can make things better.

Getting started

First, you'll need to pick a place to walk, like the route to school, a friend's house, the grocery store, the park or just somewhere fun to go.

The second step involves the checklist. Read over the checklist before you go, and as you walk, note the locations of things you would like to change. At the end of your walk, give each question a rating. Then add up the numbers to see how you rated your walk overall.

After you've rated your walk and identified any problem areas, the next step is to figure out what you can do to improve your community's score. You'll find both immediate answers and long-term solutions under "Improving Your Community's Score..." on the third page.





How walkable is your community?

Take a walk and use this checklist to rate your neighborhood's walkability.

Location of walk						
Rating Scale: 1 (Awful) 2 (Many Problems) 3 (Soi	me Proble	ms) 4	(Good)	5 (Very Good)	6 (Excellent)	
1. Did you have room to walk? Yes Some problems (mark all that apply): Sidewalks or paths started and stopped Sidewalks were broken or cracked Sidewalks were blocked with poles, signs, shrubbery, dumpsters, etc. No sidewalks, paths, or shoulders Too much traffic Something else Location of problems:	4. Wo	s it easy uld you o 'es O 'es O	y to follo and your No C co No St le No W fa	to follow safety rules? Ind your family member or friend No Cross at crosswalks or where you could see and be seen by drivers? No Stop and look left, right and then left again before crossing streets? No Walk on sidewalks or shoulders facing traffic where there were no sidewalks?		
Rating: (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6				2 3 4 5 6		
 2. Was it easy to cross streets? Yes O Some problems (mark all that apply): Road was too wide Traffic signals made us wait too long or did not give us enough time to cross Needed striped crosswalks or traffic signals Parked cars blocked our view of traffic Trees or plants blocked our view of traffic Needed curb ramps or ramps needed repair Something else Location of problems: 	 5. Was your walk pleasant? Yes O Some unpleasant things (mark all that apply): Needed more grass, flowers, or trees Scary dogs Scary people Not well lighted Dirty, lots of litter or trash Something else Location of problems: 					
Rating: (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6 3. Did drivers behave well?	Rating: (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6 How does your neighborhood stack up? Add up your ratings and decide.					
 Yes O Some problems (mark all that apply): Backed out of driveways without looking Did not yield to people crossing the street 	Question 26-30	Questions 1-5 Ratings Total: 26-30 Celebrate! You have a great neighborhood				
 Turned into people crossing the street Drove too fast Sped up to make it through traffic lights or drove through traffic lights Something else Location of problems:	21-25 16-20 11-15	Okay, There addres	ate a little but it nee are some	e. Your neighborhoodeds some work. major problems that rk with your neighbo	t need to be	
Rating: (circle one) 1 2 3 4 5 6	5-10	the att	ention of	re severe and need to your local leaders. V ganize a plan of act	Work with your	



Improving your community's score...

Now that you know the problems, you can find the answer.

What you and your family What you and your community member or friend can do now can do with more time 1. Did you have room to walk? Sidewalks or paths started and stopped pick another route for now speak up at board meetings Sidewalks broken or cracked • tell local traffic engineering · write or petition the city for walkways Sidewalks blocked or public works department and gather neighborhood signatures No sidewalks, paths or shoulders about specific problems make media aware of problem and provide a copy of Too much traffic • work with a local transportation the checklist engineer to develop a plan for a safe walking route 2. Was it easy to cross streets? Road too wide • pick another route for now • push for crosswalks/signals/ Traffic signals made us wait too long or share problems and checklist parking changes/curb ramps did not give us enough time to cross with local traffic engineering at city meetings Crosswalks/traffic signals needed or public works department • report to traffic engineer where View of traffic blocked by parked cars, • trim your trees or bushes that parked cars are safety hazards trees, or plants block the street and ask • report illegally parked cars your neighbors to do the same to the police Needed curb ramps or ramps leave nice notes on problem • request that the public works needed repair cars asking owners not department trim trees or plants to park there make media aware of problem 3. Did drivers behave well? Backed without looking • pick another route for now • petition for more enforcement Did not vield set an example: slow down request protected turns Turned into walkers and be considerate of others ask city planners and traffic Drove too fast encourage your neighbors engineers for traffic calming ideas Sped up to make traffic lights or to do the same ask schools about getting drove through red lights • report unsafe driving to crossing guards at key locations the police organize a neighborhood speed watch program 4. Could you follow safety rules? Cross at crosswalks or where you educate yourself and your encourage schools to teach family members or friends could see and be seen walking safely Stop and look left, right, left about safe walking help schools start safe walking programs before crossing • organize parents in your • encourage corporate support Walk on sidewalks or shoulders facing traffic neighborhood to walk for flex schedules so parents Cross with the light children to school can walk children to school 5. Was your walk pleasant?

Needs grass, flowers, trees Scary dogs Scary people Not well lit Dirty, litter

- point out areas to avoid to your family members and friends; agree on safe routes
- ask neighbors to keep dogs leashed or fenced
- report scary dogs to the animal control department
- report scary people to the police
- report lighting needs to the police or appropriate public works department
- take a walk with a trash bag
- plant trees, flowers in your yard

- request increased police enforcement
- start a crime watch program in your neighborhood
- organize a community clean-up day
- sponsor a neighborhood beautification or tree-planting day
- begin an adopt-a-street program



Improving your community's score (continued)...

Now that you know the problems, you can find the answer.

A Quick Health Check

Could not go as far or as fast as we wanted Were tired, short of breath or had sore feet or muscles

What you and your family member or friend can do now

- start with short walks and work up to 30 minutes of walking most days
- invite a friend or child along

What you and your community can do with more time

- get media to do a story about the health benefits of walking
- call parks and recreation department about community walks
- encourage corporate support for employee walking programs

Great Resources

Need some guidance? These resources might help...

WALKING INFORMATION

Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC) UNC Highway Safety Research Center 730 Airport Road, Suite 300 Campus Box 3430 Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3430 Phone: (919) 962-2202 www.pedbikeinfo.org www.walkinginfo.org

National Center for Bicycling and Walking Campaign to Make America Walkable 1506 21st Street, NW Suite 200 Washington, DC 20036 Phone: (800) 760-NBPC www.bikefed.org

WALK TO SCHOOL DAY WEB SITES

USA event: www.walktoschool-usa.org International: www.iwalktoschool.org

STREET DESIGN AND TRAFFIC CALMING

Federal Highway Administration Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Research Program HSR - 20 6300 Georgetown Pike McLean, VA 22101 www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped/index.htm

Institute of Transportation Engineers www.ite.org

Surface Transportation Policy Project www.transact.org

Transportation for Livable Communities www.tlcnetwork.org

ACCESSIBLE SIDEWALKS

US Access Board 1331 F Street, NW Suite 1000 Washington, DC 20004-1111 Phone: (800) 872-2253 (800) 993-2822 (TTY) www.access-board.gov

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Traffic Safety Programs 400 Seventh Street, SW Washington, DC 20590 Phone: (202) 662-0600 www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/pedbimot/ped

National SAFE KIDS Campaign 1301 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Suite 1000 Washington, DC 20004 Phone: (202) 662-0600 Fax: (202) 393-2072

WALKING AND HEALTH

Center for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity Phone: (888) 232-4674 www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/readyset www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/kidswalk/index.htm

Prevention Magazine 33 East Minor Street Emmaus, PA 18098 www.itsallaboutprevention.com

Shape Up America! 6707 Democracy Boulevard Suite 306 Bethesda, MD 20817 www.shapeup.org

WALKING COALITIONS

America Walks P.O. Box 29103 Portland, Oregon 97210 Phone: (530) 222-1077 www.americawalks.org

Partnership for a Walkable America National Safety Council 1121 Spring Lake Drive Itasca, IL 60143-3201 Phone: (603) 285-1121 www.nsc.org/walkable.htm

www.safekids.org